



August 8, 2012

Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz  
Democratic National Committee  
430 South Capitol Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Attn: Steve Walker  
[walkers@dnc.org](mailto:walkers@dnc.org)

Dear Chairwoman Wasserman-Schultz:

We write to assure that the speaking roster for the 2012 Democratic National Convention includes the usual presentation to show the support of the Democratic Party for the citizenship rights of the residents of the Nation's Capital. In sharp contrast to Republicans, Democrats have long regarded their National Convention as the most important national forum to voice support for the rights of the 618,000 American citizens who reside in the District of Columbia, a population growing at the rate of 1,000 people per month. For example, our Party led the fight for Congressional voting rights as President Obama was being elected and used the 2008 Democratic National Convention to help rally the majority of Americans, who now support D.C. Congressional rights. More recently, President Obama, in his annual budgets, has supported budget autonomy for the District of Columbia to relieve the city of the requirement to send its local budget funds to Congress for approval, as if the city were a federal agency. This fundamental violation of local autonomy that was central to the Nation's founding has been the source of attachments to annual local D.C. budgets to undemocratically reverse local law.

The Democratic Party has consistently recognized the basic rights of District of Columbia residents both in its platform and in voicing its support by allowing time for Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to speak at the Democratic National Convention. The Party is being responsive on the platform by working with us on language. We request that you follow the precedents of past conventions by offering time for Congresswoman Norton to express our Party's support for the rights of District of Columbia citizens during one of the evening sessions at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Sincerely,

*Anita Bonds*

Anita Bonds  
Chairperson, DC Democratic Committee

*Vincent C. Gray*

Vincent C. Gray  
Mayor, District of Columbia